



VOL. 88, No. 5

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

DECEMBER 26, 2024

Council Tackles DEI Audit; Shares Community Feedback

by Matthew Arbach

The Greenbelt City Council gathering on December 18 began with a worksession with representatives from Tribesey Consulting who presented their overview of their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) audit of the city. This was built upon a Phase I internal audit conducted under the city's DEI Department, headed by Tyra Smith, who was also present. Smith said that the city's Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Team (JAT) had recently drafted a vision statement, which would define DEI concepts as they apply to the city, with the goal being to integrate them into all city functions and departments as part of an upcoming strategic plan.

This Phase II audit targeted gathering personal impressions from the city's residents and visitors, especially those who would often not otherwise engage in local government. Ninety-one people were interviewed, with the following ethnic breakdown: 62 percent African Diaspora; 21 percent white; 13 percent colonized by Spain; 3 percent other or unknown; and 1 percent

Asian. Concerning the age range, the percentages worked out to a majority being the ages between 30 and 40, the next largest being those in their 50s, and the smallest group being those in their 20s. Councilmember Kristen Weaver expressed that this seemed an accurate demographic representation for the most part.

The locations or events focused on were: Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Franklin Park Back to School Rally, Beltway Plaza, Hook and Reel restaurant, Greenbelt Community Center, Greenbriar Community Center and Schrom Hills Park.

Tribesey consultant Gail Watts said that the audit should be viewed as a story, which acknowledges the reality of the city's past and present, as well as envisioning a future where all residents will feel a greater sense of community, with an equal voice in the city's evolution. The purpose of the audit is to inform the JAT's strategic plan, and should be used in all transparency with all sectors of

See COUNCIL, page 6

Charlestowne North Tenants Ride Rental Roller Coaster

by Cathie Meetre

In the latest round of trauma for residents, on November 14, 23 residents of Charlestowne North, a 178-unit rental high-rise building located by Greenbelt Lake at the end of Lakecrest Drive, were taken to court for nonpayment of rent by former building owner Charlestowne North Holding Company (CNHC).

The Maryland Business Express website states that CNHC's business registration was "forfeited for failure to file property return for 2023" on November 13, 2023.

Cases Dismissed

All 23 rent cases were dismissed on November 26 in Prince George's County District Court. Likely the dismissal resulted from CNHC having no valid status as an entity at the time of the trial. County and state real estate tax records have not yet been updated to record the change of ownership.

Problems Multiplied

The apartments deteriorated

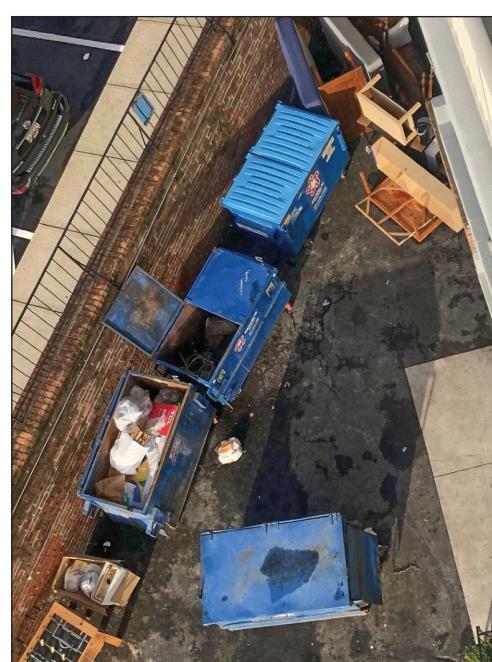


PHOTO COURTESY WANDA DARDEN

Trash went uncollected and blocked the door outside a lower-level back entrance for weeks this time last year. Photo taken on January 7, 2024.

rapidly after their purchase by CNHC in January 2023. The company, formed at the end of 2022, failed to fix ongoing problems that then snowballed as CNHC eliminated, reduced or ignored building services. Tenants were left with unreliable elevators, an insecure lobby and minimal staffing. Trash piled up

many feet high by the building and leaks plagued the apartments. State and county records indicate the owners did not pay real estate taxes.

Rents were collected but little or nothing was paid for by CNHC. If average rent for an apartment was \$1,800 per month and perhaps 150 of the 178 apartments were rented throughout the year, the owners received approximately \$3.24 million in rent, paid out as little as possible, transferred the cash elsewhere and went into bankruptcy, leaving Freddie Mac to pay off the mortgage. There was expense to the city for removing trash and trauma for the residents.

Inevitably, many renters moved out. (See News Review

See TENANTS, page 8

What Goes On

Wednesday, January 1
New Year's Day: All City Offices Closed
No Meetings All Week

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltdmd.gov for more information.

The Winter Solstice Inspires A Sparkling Musical Stroll

by Lesley Kash

In the very chilly evening darkness on Friday, December 20, around 30 revelers, bundled up decoratively, gathered in the Firefly Sanctuary in Stream Valley Park to sing, dance, stroll and celebrate the Winter Solstice.

Greenbelt's Honk! Situation band provided their trademark musical foolishness. Fabulously costumed characters, a giant eyeball and a dancing dragon led the crowd down the stream valley, "following darkness like a dream," in the words of William Shakespeare.

At the Northway/Crescent crosswalk, flashing crossing lights stopped traffic, and the glittering procession (complete with dancing crossing guards) amused the waiting drivers.

The crowd lured passersby along the way across Braden



Mother and Child look down upon musical hilarity as the Greenbelt Honk! Situation celebrates the winter solstice on Friday, December 20.

Field, and debouched into Roosevelt Center. There more folks awaited enchantment (and/or Honk! hilarity) between a softly glowing Mother and Child statue and the festive holiday tree, all surrounded by fairy lights. The ensuing zany Honk! song 'n' dance fest was enhanced by a dragon photo spot and a bewilderment of individual

lighting effects. The Winter Solstice marks the shortest, darkest day and is celebrated in anticipation of coming sunnier seasons. Solstice day sometimes is called Yule among neo-pagans (a feisty, ubiquitous element of Greenbelt's spiritual diversity). And in religions and cultures throughout the ages, this quiet time of year has inspired uplifting displays of dancing and music, fire and lights.

"For me this is the perfect blend of community, music and joy in the beautiful darkness of the winter. A gift that anyone can enjoy," said Susan Barnett. "I particularly enjoyed parading along the path through town. It just seemed magical!"

GHI Discusses Traffic Calming Again; Proposals Not Popular

by Mary Moien

At the December 19 Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) board meeting, the City of Greenbelt Traffic Calming Study was again on the agenda. A general tone, although not unanimous, was that the board was not in favor of the proposals in the Traffic Calming Study. It was on the agenda of the December 5 meeting but was only briefly touched on due to the lateness of the meeting (see article in the December 12 issue). At this meeting, there were many

more comments from the board, and it was decided that Board President Stefan Brodd would draft a general response to the city. Individual board members and other GHI members were also encouraged to send their thoughts to the city.

Board Member Chuck Hess indicated that GHI cannot afford to lose parking spaces. Board Member Nancy Boyd concurred

See TRAFFIC, page 7



From left, Lauren Rankel, Caitlin McGrath and Adrienne Haddad gather a few of the socks collected for donation at the annual snowball fight at Greenbelt Cinema. See story on page 11.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL G. STEWART

Letters to the Editor

Wishing for Patience

Last week's headlines were quite the Festivus Airing of the Grievances. At the Solstice Yule Fire, instead of wishing for peace, I took the baby steps of wishing for greater patience and understanding by and for all in a Happy New Year.

Alan Duda

Objects to Coverage

The December 19 issue had extensive coverage about perceived personnel issues at the Co-op Supermarket, with the Board's response, voiced by Chair Kim Kash, located at the end of the article. Co-op supports its 50+ Co-op team members. Co-op's Board and managers are listening to and focusing on concerns of both staff and patrons. One person who hasn't been a part of the Co-op for over a year does not speak for the present team. This was rehashing of old and already-investigated complaints.

Co-op works to ensure that there is a positive, cooperative work environment where staff feel safe, are recognized and rewarded for their good work and commitment. Co-op does not tolerate harassment or threats. An employee with any concerns is encouraged to bring that issue to their manager or directly to [General Manager] Dan [Gillotte], who has an open-door policy for all. The management team meets weekly to address any store issues and Dan meets weekly with each manager to go over departmental issues.

Following privacy laws regarding employee information, Co-op will not discuss personnel issues publicly; that can lead to unfortunate miscommunications.

Co-op added three former New Deal Café staff members to the store when the NDC contract ended, and no compensation or benefits of any existing Co-op staff were reduced.

The article noted "poor fiscal decisions ... (accruing late fees on bills)." That is a false statement.* Co-op's auditor, LSWG, completed its reviewed report for FY24 with no issues being raised.

During 2025, Co-op will continue focusing on improving the store. Improving communications among Board, management, employees and members is a goal.

Co-op is an asset to its 5,000+ members, Roosevelt Center and the community. We will continue

working to ensure the Co-op's long-term viability and that Co-op continues to serve its members and the Greenbelt community.

Kim Kash, Chair
Co-op's Board of Directors

*Editor's Note: The article's statement was not false. It noted these were among concerns raised by employees at the August board meeting.

Council Needs Contrarian

I would like to thank City Councilmember Rodney Roberts for his dedication and efforts to save our city money. If careful planning and bargaining can save thousands of dollars, the city could well disperse the funds to help the needy among us.

Our Public Works Department is doing a terrific job of tending to our city's physical resources and needs. I see its employees working long hours, sometimes outside in brutal weather. However, I do not know if any of its employees are tasked to repair and physically replace publicly owned truck engines. I assume that such job requirements belong to the city manager's purview.

Also, I know that bargaining with repair persons is quite an art. I once took a short course in how to bargain. What I learned has proved to be especially useful and has saved me a lot of money.

I have long thought that the city council needs a contrarian on its membership to avoid group-think. Therefore, I have voted for Mr. Roberts for decades and plan to continue doing so.

Shalom Fisher

City Council Intimidators

Good Grief, Charlie Brown!

What are we supposed to take away from the public shaming of Councilmember Rodney Roberts? And who will now dare to speak their mind without fear of being denounced by the Intimidators? This is turning into a federal case.

From now on, we will have to keep our emotions in check or suffer deadly stares of disapproval. How boring. We should be asking for honesty. And sometimes hollering accompanies honesty. So what? Holler back. It's healthy. We can still have civil discourse and holler. The British Parliament does it all the time.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

A Complete Unknown

New York, 1961. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, Bob Dylan (Timothée Chalamet), an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota, arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. He forges intimate relationships with music icons of Greenwich Village on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking and controversial performance that reverberates worldwide. Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in the electric true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history. Said critic Sam Adams of *Slate*, "A Complete Unknown is a fine movie about Bob Dylan ... but it's a better movie about the people who watched him do it, the die-hard believers who saw him as their greatest hope, then their greatest adversary."

Babygirl

A high-powered CEO (Nicole Kidman) puts her career and family on the line when she begins a torrid affair with her much younger intern (Harris Dickinson). "Kidman is a marvel here," said critic Rubén Rosario of *MiamiArtZine*.



Maybe I see things differently because I grew up in a large family where I learned to stand up for myself on occasion. Some people call it fighting. It wasn't usually pretty, and it made for a good confession at church on Saturday. But it was healthy as long as no one got hurt and no profanity was used.

So why again is Councilmember Roberts being censured for vehemently disagreeing with a decision made by Public Works? It was his prerogative and his duty.

Everyone, please apologize for any misunderstanding. Censure is a bad word.

Jean Lombardo

Support Co-op Employees

I was saddened to read the December 19 article, on employee dissatisfaction and mistreatment of employees by customers. As a longtime resident and shopper at the Co-op, I have noticed a change in personnel

See LETTERS, page 9

PETE REPPERT



REMEMBER - WHAT HAPPENS IN GREENBELT STAYS IN GREENBELT!

Holiday Deadlines

To accommodate our printer's New Year's schedule, our January 2 issue will be printed a day late, but our deadlines will be a day early for that issue.

Advertisements: Camera-ready display ads, classifieds and any required payments are due by 6 p.m. Monday, December 30. Material needing hands-on attention should come in by Friday, December 27. There will be no office hours on Tuesday, December 31, and no ads will be accepted that day.

Submissions: To be considered for publication, articles over 700 words are due by Sunday, December 29 at 2 p.m. All letters to the editor (300-word limit) are due by Sunday, December 29 at 6 p.m. Articles under 700 words and photographs are due by 2 p.m. on Monday, December 30.



greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

**SHOWTIMES:
DECEMBER 27th - JANUARY 2nd**

A Complete Unknown (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (140 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM

Sun. 2:00 PM OC, 5:00 PM

Tues. 12:30 PM

Thurs. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM

Mon. 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM

Wed. 7:00 PM

Babygirl (R) (CC) (DVS)
(2024) (114 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM

Mon. 2:15 PM OC, 5:15 PM

Wed. 7:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:15 PM

Sun. 2:15 PM, 5:15 PM

Tues. 12:45 PM

Thurs. 7:15 PM

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887

Phone: 301-474-4131

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)

ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)

business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)

website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985

Mary Lou Williamson, Editor

Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

STAFF

Matt Arbach, Ann Bauman, Kathryn Beard, Anna Bedford-Dillow, Laura Bonkosky, Jerry Bonnell, Letty Bonnell, Alan Burt, Rasheeda Childress, Maurice Crawford, Deborah Daniel, Deanna Dawson, Christine Doran, Joan Estenson, Anne Gardner, Elizabeth Gardner, Jon Gardner, Jim Giese, Ian Gleason, Patrick Gleason, Angie Gordon, Carol Griffith, Kyla Hanington, Amy Hansen, Erik Hanson, Michael Hartman, Butch Hicks, Peggy Higgins, Donna Hoffmeister, Melanie Iversen, Erica Johns, Jeff Jones, Tom Jones, Jennifer Jurling, Lesley Kash, Elisabeth Kevorkian, Amina Khalifa, Michael Kusie, Sandra Lange, Amanda Larsen, Linda Lucas, Charlene MacAdams, Marc Manheimer, Anne Marigza, Cathie Meetre, Mary Moien, Diane Oberg, Julie Rapp, Peter Reppert, Joe Robbins, Sandy Rodgers, Ian Blackwell Rogers, Lois Rosado, Richard Roth, Bonnie Schrack, Pat Scully, Bonnie Seaton, René Sewell-Raynor, David Shapiro, Melissa Sites, Lola Skolnik, Susan Taylor, Beth Terry, Daniel Thies, Nancy Tolzman, Jeff Travis, Mary Lou Williamson, Ray Zammuto and Michael Zeffler.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat Scully, president; Diane Oberg, vice president; Deanna Dawson, secretary; Tom Jones, treasurer; Carol Griffith, Erica Johns and Sandy Rodgers

PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

Lafayette Credit Union Hosts Budget Workshop

Lafayette Federal Credit Union is hosting a Budgeting Basics Workshop on Saturday, January 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Credit Union in Greenway Center.

This workshop is designed to provide any and all community members with techniques to take control of their finances. In this interactive session, experts will outline how to track income and expenses, master budgeting basics, create a personalized budget plan and more. Light fare is included. RSVP at lfcu.events/budget0125.

Concert Band Seeks Players

The Greenbelt Concert Band (GCB) hopes to increase the size of the group, particularly with trumpet, French horn, tuba and percussion players. GCB resumes rehearsals on Monday, January 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center. Email director@greenbeltconcertband.org or visit the website at greenbeltconcertband.org.

Weekly Programs Held at The SPACE

Join in commemorating five incredible years and a host of new community partners at The SPACE: Free Art For All.

Sundays, Sewing Classes, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Open to all skill levels. A limited number of sewing machines is available; participants can also bring their own.

Wednesdays, Beginners Music Classes in Ukelele and Keyboards, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Fridays, Free Art for All Game Night, 5 to 7 p.m. Level up your game at open game night. Play for fun and gear up for monthly tournaments. Space Family Band Jam Session, 7 to 9 p.m. Rainbow Joe is back. Bring an instrument or borrow one from The SPACE and jump into the jam.

Saturdays, Yoga with René Hood, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Expressive Art Workshops, 2 to 4 p.m.

All classes are not only enriching but also free and open to the public. The program extends a warm welcome for donations to support its community initiatives.

The SPACE is located upstairs in the former Big Lots space at Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road. Details on upcoming events can be seen on Instagram or Facebook @ TheSPACEFreeArtForAll. For questions call 240-244-6115.

At the Library

The Greenbelt Library will be closed Tuesday, December 31, and Wednesday, January 1, for the New Year's Holiday. Passport Acceptance Service at all branches is suspended through January 4.

The Library's regular hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.

All in-person events are on hiatus during the holiday season until January 4.

The PGCLMS News Suite (pgclms.info/news-suite) offers quick and easy access to many national and international newspapers and magazines, including digital editions of the Washington Post, New York Times and Wall Street Journal, plus the Baltimore Sun and USA Today via Press-Reader.

CARES Needs Fund Donations

For the past three years, Greenbelt CARES has used federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money to help prevent evictions brought on by Covid. The ARPA money ran out in October. It is now up to Greenbelt residents to help our neighbors. Although evictions have decreased since the pandemic, families are still facing eviction because of increases in rent, illness, death of a family member or a financial crisis such as expensive medical care or car repairs.

A recent poll shows that many persons do not have financial stability due to a lack of job security, no health insurance and decreased ability to save for a financial crisis.

The Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund continues to be that safety net for Greenbelters in a financial crisis whatever the reason. Those who are able can help by donating to the fund.

Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, write Emergency Assistance Fund in the memo space and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (or place in the secure drop box at that address). Or, go to GreenbeltMD.gov, click Pay Online at the top of the page and choose Charitable Donations. Complete the form, indicating the donation is for the Emergency Assistance Fund, and click submit; the payment page then will come up with a form to enter credit card or PayPal information.

State Offers Grants For Individual Artists

The Maryland State Arts Council announced a unique funding opportunity that provides \$2,500 in holistic support to Maryland-based independent artists, helping them cover essential living and working expenses. The application deadline is January 17.

This program is designed to be accessible to independent artists statewide, with an eligibility-based application process and no critical review of work samples. All eligible applications are entered into a randomized selection process, ensuring an equal chance for all applicants.

For more details about the program, eligibility criteria and application process, visit msac.org/programs/grants-artists. Those with questions or needing assistance, email Jess Porter, senior program director, at jess.porter@maryland.gov.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

French Conversation Group Will Skip Jan. 2

The French conversation group will not meet on Thursday, January 2. Their next meeting will be on Thursday, January 9 at the New Deal Café at 5:30 p.m.

Mahjongg Now Played Wednesday Afternoons

Want to learn how to play American mahjongg? Abby Crowley will offer a free four-week class beginning Wednesday, January 8 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Note that the Winter Recreation Guide lists an incorrect starting time.)

Those with some experience with American mahjongg are welcome to come play on Wednesdays from 1 (or sometimes earlier) to 4 p.m. (or whatever part of that time fits each player's schedule) in Room 109 in the Community Center.

Register for either the class or to play at the Recreation Department office in the Community Center. Both are free.

GIVES Needs Drivers

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that helps adult Greenbelt residents with transportation and friendly visits, along with other services. More drivers are urgently needed to meet the increase in requests for services. To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, be a member of GIVES, have a valid Maryland license and insurance, and obtain a free background check. Membership is free. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.

Golden Age Club January Meetings

The Golden Age Club meets most Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. The club does not meet on federal holidays or when inclement weather delays or closes Prince George's County schools.

January 1 – New Year's Day and Hanukkah: no meeting.

January 8 – Business Meeting with swearing in of new officers. Membership dues are due.

January 15 – Bringing in the New Year with a sing-along with Chris and Stefan.

January 22 – Celebration of January birthdays. Members attending should bring a snack to share.

January 29 – New Year closet inventory with Jan Derry, who tells members how to inventory their closets to be more efficient in their homes.

GAC Invites Proposals

Calling all actors, directors, dancers, singers, musicians, poets and artists of all kinds: the Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) is seeking proposals for productions for the 2025-2026 season. For those with a project in mind that might be a good fit for the GAC stage, click through to the submission form and give the details. Visit GreenbeltArtsCenter.org to access the submission form. Proposal submissions will be accepted until Sunday, January 5.

Poetry in the Garden

The Poetry Club will welcome a new guest speaker at its poetry reading on Sunday, January 5 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the clubhouse of Schrom Hills Park. The topic for this meeting is Native American Poetry and Culture. The public is invited to this free event. Attendees can read their own poem or just enjoy listening. Refreshments will be served.

For more details, call Effie at 443-415-1053.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
 *** Monday 5pm-10pm; Tuesday—Thursday 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 12midnight;
 Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED

TH 12/26	FRI 12/27	SAT 12/28	SUN 12/29
BOXING DAY CAFE CLOSES AT 4pm	KIVA 8-11pm Strong vocal harmonies with rich and diverse musical instrumentation	NDC SATURDAY JAZZ JAM, 2-5PM The Bad Influence Band 8-11pm Blues & roots with sheer intensity	Bayside Big Band 6-8pm Playing the music of the big bands, '30's up to the present
MON 12/30 NO EVENTS	TUES 12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION! THE WILD ANACOSTIAS 9p-12:30a MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW	WED 1/01/25 CAFE OPENS AT 1pm The Campfire Sessions 7-9pm A monthly listening room	TH 1/02 FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30-10pm Big, bodacious boogie blues. Jan
			New Deal Cafe We want to hear from you! NewDealCafe.com ; Click on ABOUT, them CONTACT THE CAFE

Join NDC! Go to NewDealCafe.com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DURING TRANSITION

Thank you for your understanding - NDC Board



Greenbelt Access Television
Dec 28, Sat - Jan 3, Fri
 Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
 (School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
 Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station
 Featured Programming (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)

Greenbelt Reparations Commission Community Forum

This conversation, from October 12th, features a panel of speakers who are involved in local reparations efforts: Maxine Gross, Nancy Joy Alchin, Wanika B. Fisher, and Alethia McCaskill.

New This Month

Krampusnacht 2024

Witness (and sing along to) our coverage from Greenbelt's own Krampusnacht, which was held in Roosevelt Center on December 14th.

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check GreenbeltAccessTV.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube for new video productions.

Obituaries

Belinda Birdsong



PHOTO COURTESY THE BIRDSONG FAMILY

Belinda Birdsong

Belinda Kaye Birdsong, 71, of Greenbelt, died peacefully with her children at her bedside on December 16, 2024, after living with Alzheimer's disease for several years. She was a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in College Park.

See **OBITUARIES**, page 11

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road
We are an Open and Affirming Church
www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.
- Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

The Bible Says...

For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11

Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School (66 Ridge Rd.)
MCFcc.org

Merry Christmas
from MCF Community Church

MCFcc.org

Our Neighbors

Our condolences to the family and friends of Betty Edwards. She was a friendly and familiar presence to shoppers at the Greenbelt Co-op, where Betty worked for many years.

Condolences also to the family, friends and fellow parishioners of Belinda Birdsong, a gifted musician and teacher and a relatively recent resident of Greenbelt who moved to be near her children.

Sylvia Lewis celebrated her 90th birthday with a weekend-long family gathering, enjoying children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Together they walked Old Greenbelt and watched the popular movie, *It Happened One Night*, from 1934, the year of her birth.

On December 17, Molly Rubinstein of Green Ridge House became a first-time great-grandmother when Elena Reign Gibbs was born.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT MASS
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
City Council Room
25 Crescent Rd
ALL ARE WELCOME!
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io
cathcomgreenbelt.org

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH
Christ-centered Biblical & Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday School 9:15am
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
4512 College Avenue, College Park, MD 20740
www.saeccp.org

First Sunday after Christmas, December 29th
8 a.m. service: Eucharist (Communion)
10:30 a.m. service: Christmas Lessons and Carols

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- John 1:5 -

All are welcome!

In Memoriam

I just learned about the death of Betty Edwards, and would like to pass on condolences to the Edwards family as they adjust to the loss of Betty: beloved wife, mother, grandmother and hard-working front-end employee at the Co-op Supermarket. I knew Betty as a neighbor and a worker at the Co-op. She was always helpful and friendly despite being busy. The Co-op is not the same without her.

- Kathryn Beard

Local Lottery Win

A scratch-off 20X the Cash lottery ticket sold at Beltway Plaza won \$50,000. The prize was claimed during the week of December 16 to 22, according to Maryland Lottery and Gaming.



"The stronger the ties of fellowship and solidarity amongst men, the greater will be the power of constructiveness and accomplishment in all the planes of human activity."

- 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors

Find us on facebook.com/mowattum

301-474-5410

Pastor Evelyn Romero



Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

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Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

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Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

December 29, 2024 at 3 p.m.
One Kwanzaa, Many Colors

Carmelita Carter-Sykes, PBUUC Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) with Worship Associate Lula Beatty

Celebrate Kwanzaa with us. Kwanzaa honors the African roots, struggles and strengths of Black Americans. We'll tell the Kwanzaa story of gratitude for the harvest, hope for the future, and pride in culture. We will reflect on how the seven principles of Kwanzaa can nurture and connect all people and communities, no matter one's color, ethnicity, or nationality.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD





City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 30 - JANUARY 3

NO MEETINGS ALL WEEK - HOLIDAYS.

ALL CITY OFFICES CLOSED WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar.

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY'S CHARITABLE FUNDS

Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations.

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND: This fund provides financial assistance to Greenbelt residents facing food insecurity and financial difficulty in paying for utilities (Electric, Phone, Internet, Water and Gas). This program receives funding from generous individuals, as well as Greenbelt faith communities and other civic associations. During the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Good Samaritan Fund is collecting monies to support the St. Hugh's Food Pantry and residents struggling to pay their utility bills.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND: Established to accept and disburse donations received to assist Greenbelt residents to pay rent to avoid possible eviction. Approximately a dozen individuals receive assistance from these funds each fiscal year.

GREENBELT RECREATION: Greenbelt Recreation receives contributions from various sources. The monetary donations are used to support camp scholarships, special events and other designated programs as specified by the donor. Monies are transferred to the General Fund to offset the program as appropriate.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION: Contributions are made to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE). These monies fund ACE initiatives such as its scholarship fund.

NOW YOU MAY DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/DONATIONS

You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Please note which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on the flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.

APPLICANTS WANTED FOR CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE

The City of Greenbelt is seeking applicants to join the Charter Review Task Force. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the future of our community.

For more information or to apply, please contact City Clerk at banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov or (301) 474-3870.

AGING SOLO

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program Presents Aging Solo Working Group. The Aging Solo Working Group is a 6-week program that will have speakers and group discussions. Participants must be willing to make progress in their aging solo journey to participate in this working group. Must have taken the Aging Solo class prior to joining the group.

To register, (204) 424-0302.

LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Fall 2024-2025

Week	Location	Holiday
December 30 - January 3	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	New Years Day January 1

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION!

Your discarded Christmas tree can be recycled. Public Works will pickup trees at locations listed below or online. Please insure all ornaments and lights are removed. Drop off your trees for recycling at specified areas up until **February 7, 2025**.

GHI

- Ridge Road, 73 Court (opposite playground)
- Plateau Place and Ridge Road (corner on playground side)
- Research Road and Hillside Road (corner)
- Ridge Road, 44 Court (Area near playground)
- Eastway & Crescent Road (corner)
- Ridge Road, 21 Court (across from Green Ridge House)
- Crescent Road and Ridge Road (playground at junction)
- Parkway (corner across from 58 Court Crescent Road)
- Parkway (corner across from Community Church)
- Southway, 7 Court (playground at Little League field)
- Ridge Road, 11 Court and 13 Court (area between courts)

BOXWOOD

- Ivy Lane and Lastner Lane (playground)

Lakewood

- Greenhill Road & Crescent Road (by Baptist Church)

CHARLESTOWNE VILLAGE AND CHARLESTOWNE NORTH

- Property adjacent to Attic Park

UNIVERSITY SQUARE

- In front of swimming pool

LAKESIDE NORTH

- Near Swimming pool

SPRINGHILL LAKE

- Field past 9294 Edmonston

GREENBRIAR

- Between buildings 7708 & 7710
- Between buildings 7728 & 7730
- Between buildings 7826 & 7828
- Between buildings 8003 & 8009



GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
 City Offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and January 1, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.
THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of December 23 and December 30

Monday Route – Regular Schedule
 Tuesday Route – Regular Schedule
 Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday
 Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, December 27 and Friday, January 3.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY VISIT

Monday, February 10, 11 am - 4 pm

Join Greenbelt Recreation and Senior Globetrotting as we visit The National Museum of African American History and Culture. It is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. Enjoy lunch on your own at the museum or at a local restaurant.

You may register online or in person at Greenbelt Community Center. Activity #178202-1. Resident: \$5, Non-Resident: \$7

Events and programs are 60+ (Open to All Ages). Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240)- 542- 2056, pgardner@greenbeltdmd.gov.

COME SIGN WITH US

Monday, February 10, 11 am - 4 pm

Join Greenbelt Recreation and instructor, Bobbi Kayer, as we learn to communicate in sign language! This class is for those with minimal or no experience.

The class will focus on American Sign Language (ASL) signs and structure, with time for instruction as well as practice.

You can register online or in person at the Greenbelt Community Center. Activity #157202-1. Tuesdays, 1/14-3/11, 3- 5 pm at the Greenbelt Community Center, Room 202. Resident: \$55, Non-Resident: \$63 Ages 14+

Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux at pgardner@greenbeltdmd.gov, (240) 542-2056 for more information.

GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT

This FREE program will start in January. To be eligible you must: Live within City limits, have children ages newborn to 3 years old, children who wear diapers or pull-ups. Program Features: Up to 10 bi-weekly home visits from student nurses. Services include: Diapers, formula, wipes and so much more!

Questions? Need help registering?

Please contact Brendy Maddox at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltdmd.gov.

PROPOSED COUNCIL VACANCY PROCESS

The proposed Council Vacancy Process legislation will be introduced for a first reading on **December 9**. A public hearing on the proposed Council Vacancy Process will be held on **January 13, 2025**.

The Greenbelt Board of Elections has proposed two options for the Council to consider in the event of a vacancy on City Council. If "Option 1" is chosen, legislation will need to be drafted to amend the Election Code. Alternatively, if "Option 2" is selected, legislation will need to be drafted to amend the City Charter. Both options will follow the proposed timeline for filling the vacancy as follows:

1. VACANCY OCCURS (REASON: DEATH, RESIGNATION, INCAPACITY, OR FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE):

- Determine the timing of the vacancy in relation to the next election

2. MORE THAN 180 DAYS BEFORE NEXT ELECTION:

Special Mail-in Election:

- Candidates must file nomination papers.
- Ballots are mailed to voters.
- Voters have 30 days to respond.

3. BETWEEN 60 AND 180 DAYS BEFORE NEXT ELECTION:

Council Majority Vote:

- Seat filled by majority vote after a public hearing.

4. Within 60 Days of Next Election:

Council Discretion:

- The seat may remain vacant or may be filled at the Council's discretion.

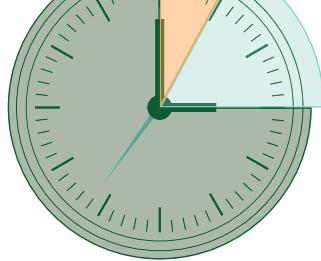
5. SIMULTANEOUS VACANCIES:

- If three or more vacancies occur simultaneously, a special election is required.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/elections

OR scan the QR code below



GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar.

PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS SUMMER STAFFING PLAN FOR GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Greenbelt, MD - The City of Greenbelt is disappointed in the County's decision to reassign 24 career personnel from Greenbelt Station 835 on July 1, resulting in the removal of all career personnel from our Station. County Fire Chief Tiffany Green and County leadership ordered the redeployment of 55 career firefighters from Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt, Bunker Hill, and Bowie Station. We are gravely concerned with the impact in response times of emergencies in Greenbelt and our surrounding areas.

Greenbelt will continue to work in tandem with College Park and Berwyn Heights alongside County leadership in addressing our concerns and fighting for the City of Greenbelt.

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Office of the County Executive
countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us
 (301) 952-4131

Office of the County Fire Chief
tdgreen@co.pg.md.us
 (301) 883-5200

At-Large County Council Member Hawkins
At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us
 (301) 952-2195

County Council Member District 4
councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us
 (301) 952-3094

Letters of Support to keep/return career staffing to Greenbelt Station 835 can be sent to:
 City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or council@greenbeltdmd.gov.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Trees**, **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee**, the **Youth Advisory Committee**, or the **Advisory Committee on Education**, **Arts Advisory Board**, **Board of Elections**, **Community Relations Advisory Board**, **Employee Relations Advisory Board**, **Forest Preserve Advisory Board**, **Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability**, or the **Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today! Call (301) 474-8000.

PUBLIC ART PROJECT For Braden Athletic Complex

Public Art for the Braden Athletic Complex Community members who use the Braden courts, fields and pedestrian/bike path. Participate in an **Active Stakeholder Survey** to help guide a new public art project! <https://bit.ly/3OgITcQ>. Read more about the project: <https://bit.ly/3UTJrgI>.



COUNCIL continued from page 1

the city, providing a baseline of community perspectives. A wide variety of topics were covered, including: city governance, recreation, voting in the last election and public safety, among many others.

Strengths, Weaknesses

The audit laid out both the city's strengths and challenges as perceived by the persons who participated. The strengths were: small-town feel, parks and trails, services for seniors, community policing, accessible events and JEDI focus groups. The audit presented other opportunities to build on further, including transportation, youth and family engagement and police-community relations.

Insufficient communication between the city's neighborhoods, a lack of inclusivity and a sense of stigma within the city stood out as the biggest negative perceptions. There was a sense that historic Greenbelt receives the

most attention and consideration, to the detriment of the rest of the city. Recreation disparities, housing affordability and safety at night also ranked high among the challenges.

Suggested Solutions

Some suggested solutions to the communication problem were online messaging (favored by younger residents) or newsletters (favored by older residents), yet Watts expressed that simply going out into the neighborhoods themselves would be the most effective. Mayor Emmett Jordan and Weaver said that this had been done in the past, but Weaver said that more could still be done.

Smith said that the city will continue to work with Tribesey on a next phase audit, expecting "an exciting road ahead of us." The focus on this phase will be community healing, both as a process and an outcome, according to Watts.

The City of Greenbelt invites residents' feedback on the draft JEDI vision statement and definitions:

The City of Greenbelt JEDI Vision and Definitions (Draft)

Recognizing the importance of creating accountability for using a Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) lens within the City of Greenbelt, the City pledges to be proactive and lead in nurturing a community and work environment that appreciates the acknowledgment and rectification of past and current injustices. We will develop a structure and brave spaces that break free from cultural conditioning and strive towards eliminating harmful patterns while fostering trust. With an unwavering dedication to enrichment, assessment, and transparency, we aspire to create a future where individuals that reside, visit, or work in the City are valued, honored, and empowered.

Justice

In the City of Greenbelt, Justice means recognizing and rectifying systemic inequalities with marginalized groups to cultivate a safe and inclusive community for all. The City is committed to nurturing an environment where every individual is continuously esteemed with dignity, respect and empathy. In addition, the City will actively seek trust and develop systems that prevent future harm for those who are most vulnerable and marginalized as a top priority.

Equity

The City of Greenbelt acknowledges current and historical barriers and biases. Therefore, Equity means removing those barriers and biases, and centering the lived experiences of marginalized and vulnerable groups to achieve their full potential. The City is committed to establishing structural and cultural systems that actively value, engage with and respond to the community to eliminate these barriers. Additionally, the City is dedicated to proactively understanding and addressing the needs of the entire community when delivering services.

Diversity

In the City of Greenbelt, Diversity means valuing differences and unique qualities, fostering appreciation, and openness among individuals with different identities, backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences. The City is committed to engaging the various perspectives within the community, ultimately promoting understanding and collaboration.

Inclusion

The City of Greenbelt acknowledges its exclusionary past. Therefore, Inclusion means creating spaces for groups to share their own narratives and ensuring that these stories are valued. The City is committed to providing an avenue for the community to be a part of the decisions that affect them and maintaining an open-minded approach. Additionally, the City is dedicated to embracing many voices and perspectives to foster a sense of belonging and empowerment for all visitors and community members.



Scan this QR code with your phone to submit feedback.

The Snow Queen Delights All



Skylar Leisnham (in blue) performs the role of Gerda.



Eleanor Colarco, left, as the Fall Fairy, is attended by her leaves.



From left, Henry Turner, Missy McBride and Olivia Nickel



Magical flowers, from left, Cameron O'Roark, Tabitha Melin and Lana Shapiro



- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow



The GCF needs volunteers!



The Greenbelt Community Foundation is very shorthanded. We need board members, a webmaster, fundraisers, and especially a treasurer. For as little as an hour a month you can help us continue to help Greenbelt. Have you considered making a New Year's resolution to help the community more? Well, now's your chance. Contact us at greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com or visit <https://greenbeltfoundation.org> for information on how to join us.



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6301 Ivy Lane
Suite 805
Greenbelt, MD 20770

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Pricing Strategy Advisor (PSA)
Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR)

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An Early Planned Community, Sunnyside Has 600 Rowhouses

by James Giese

To those interested in planned communities, the names of planners Clarence Stein and Henry Wright are well-known. Their advocacy of building new towns employing the planning concepts for English garden cities as advocated by Ebenezer Howard greatly influenced the decision of the Roosevelt administration to build the three model planned communities of Greenbelt, Green Hills, Ohio, and Greendale, Wisc. Before that, Wright and Stein had become known for their involvement in the building of Radburn, N.J., noted for its park-like interior block spaces and walkways that crossed under streets instead of at street level. Unfortunately, the advent of the great depression of the 1930s cut short the completion of that model community.

As Greenbelt city manager, I gained considerable knowledge of the three government-built green towns and Radburn and visited them all. But I failed to learn about Sunnyside Gardens in New York City, Stein and Wright's first effort in building a model planned community. That is, until I met Dorothy and Bob Pam, new residents of the retirement community in which I now reside. The Pams once resided in Sunnyside Gardens, and were very active in community organizations.

Sunnyside Gardens was built on a 77-acre tract of land acquired from the Pennsylvania Railroad by developer and financier Alexander Bing, who joined with Stein and Wright's City Housing Corporation to develop the property. Other corporate directors included the noted city planning advocate and historian Lewis Mumford, who became a resident for nine years, and Eleanor Roosevelt.

The property is located within the unincorporated community of Sunnyside in the Borough of Queens, a 20-minute commute by subway to Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan. Built between 1924 and 1928, planning was constrained by the need to follow the established street grid system for New York City that set the size of city blocks (the development takes up 16 city blocks) and prevented the designers from employing super-blocks and streets that follow the natural topography as was done in Greenbelt.

There are more than 600 two-story row houses, nine apartment buildings, commercial spaces, day care facilities and central parking located on the 16 city blocks. In addition to the apartment building complexes, some of the rowhouse homes have rental apartment units as well. The owner of a rowhome could have one or two rental units attached to it that would be a part of the property.

Many of these building units were sited close to the street with space allowed for small street-side gardens. On the interior side



Front doors open to a shared garden of Madison Court North in New York City.

PHOTO COURTESY JFA ASSOCIATES

of the building rows, additional space was provided for individual unit gardens. A common interior block walkway with street-side connections to the walkways in other blocks ran adjacent to the interior gardens. The remaining space in the center of the block, called a courtyard, was under the shared ownership of the property owners of that block under a 40-year easement agreement, cooperative ownership deemed to be legally unfeasible.

While the courtyards were originally planned as play space for children, resident objections to the noise that would be created resulted in children having to play in the community-owned park.

Much of the parking was to be in off-street community facilities, but the main parking structure is now a factory. As with the Green Towns, the planners failed to conceive of the number of vehicles residents would come to own, so the streets at Sunnyside Gardens are lined with parked cars.

During the Depression of the 1930s, 40 percent of the residents faced unemployment and over half lost their homes. Faced with evictions, residents organized rent

strikes and Eleanor Roosevelt led a protest march. But the community eventually recovered and prospered once more.

During the 1960s, the easements for the common areas expired and a portion became the property of each unit owner. This led to some residents claiming their parcels and incorporating them into their yards, blocking the courtyard sidewalks. Others left their courtyard parcels unmaintained. On the streetside, a few owners paved over their garden areas to provide private parking spaces.

As a member of the West Queens Independent Club, Dorothy and others worked with the New York Planning Commission to prevent property owners from making curb cuts and changing interior common spaces. In 1974, the New York City Department of Planning gave Sunnyside Gardens the new designation of Planned Community Preservation District and imposed rules to protect the courtyards and landscaping and prohibited driveways and curb cuts, rear sheds and additions.

Then, following a contentious grassroots movement, the

See SUNNYSIDE, page 12



Members of the Greenbelt Concert Band celebrate together before breaking for the winter holiday. The band resumes rehearsals in January. Interested musicians are invited to join. For more information, visit greenbeltconcertband.org.

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Dr. Jay McCarl, Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

TRAFFIC continued from page 1

saying that many courts do not have sufficient spaces and rely on street parking.

Board Vice President Debbie McKinley felt strongly that the details provided in the report do not seem to be backed up with data. She mentioned that the University of Maryland buses, for example, were not included in some counts of vehicles. Moving some bus stops and spaces might require changes to storm drains and catch basins which might not be accounted for in financial estimates. Also, the study was conducted over only a three-day period which might not be representative.

Board Member Ed James commented that the original issue for the study was to slow down vehicles. Then the city seemed to add on other topics. GHI member Paul Kapfer stated that the study seemed like a project looking for a problem. GHI member Phil Larkin disagreed about the need for additional parking spaces. He thinks that 30 percent of garages that are slated for "car housing only" are really being used for storage. He would like to see management check on garage usage.

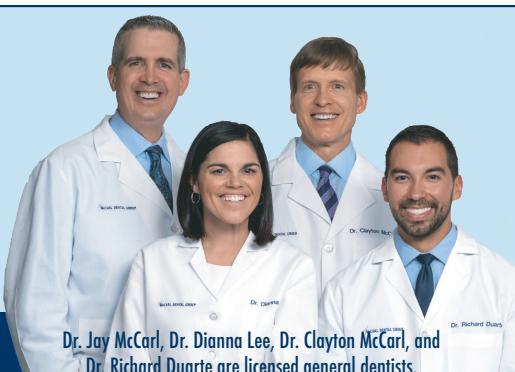
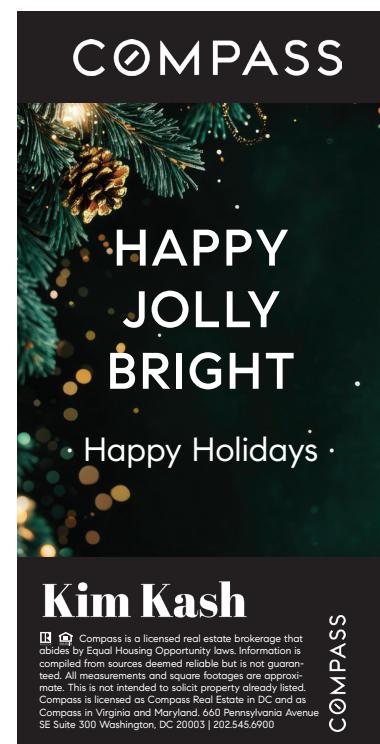
GHI Audit Committee Member Stephen Holland indicated that Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) bus changes are going into effect in the new year and will affect the city. One issue in the plan discusses moving bus stops and he felt that the proposed moves might not take into account the WMATA changes. He wants to ensure that the city takes into ac-

NR The road to heaven is paved with good advertising.
Nonprofits \$11.55
www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

count both the calming study and the WMATA changes.

There were a number of comments on the area of Ridge Road between GHI offices and Greenbelt Elementary. It was stated that some neighbors refer to the street as Ridge Road Raceway. There was a comment about vehicles going fast coming up to the school. Another thought was that the speed limit might be decreased near the intersection of Ridge Road and Hamilton Place. Also mentioned was the number of GHI work and other vehicles that use the intersection, as well as curves in the road near there.

The entire draft Traffic Calming Report can be found at greenbeltdmd.gov/government/planning-community-development/publications/traffic-calming-study. Members are encouraged to read the study and drive the locations. GHI will be sending a letter from the board, but individual members are encouraged to submit comments to GHI and/or the city by early January.



TENANTS continued from page 1

issues for September 14, 2023, January 11, 2024 and January 18, 2024.) There is no indication that CNHC was pursued for fraud.

Regulatory Action

The city entered the fray in late 2023 via its inspection program, which requires that landlords retain appropriate certifications and maintain their apartments. With the elevator uncertified, the city withdrew its rental license and the State of Maryland also became involved. Rent could not be collected and bankruptcy proceedings began, culminating in the appointment of the receiver. Residents expressed relief that the apartment building could begin to turn itself around. (See the News Review's article of March 6, 2024). Though not everything is back to normal, there is progress in the building's condition.

Receiver/Management Company

Charlestowne North is now managed by Tarantino Properties, appointed as receiver (an apparently flourishing aspect of its business). It has been working to improve the building's condition, although the elevator is still not certified. Reached for comment, the city's Director of Planning and Development Terri Hruby confirmed the valid rental license. She said, "There is still an outstanding issue with the certification of the elevators due to a supply issue with parts, but they are on order and Code Enforcement is monitoring the issue." Unlike its predecessor, Tarantino is keeping up with its obligations, having already paid the 2024 to 2025 real estate tax bill (though 2023 to 2024 remains listed as unpaid).

Occupancy Rising

Current occupancy is approximately 80 percent, with 33 of 178 apartments available (as of early December), according to the list of available rentals on its website. Rental complexes shoot for 90 percent plus occupancy, with apartments vacant only briefly during turnovers. Many residents moved out as the building went downhill, resulting in a low point of approximately 60 percent of apartments occupied in early 2024, but the occupancy number has been slowly increasing since.

Problems Remain

Fast forward to today. The uncertified elevator's operation is unreliable, leaving mobility-challenged residents inconvenienced or at risk of being stuck – they are careful to take their cellphones on the elevator. A call to the apartment's assistant property manager revealed that two completely new elevator cars are currently being built by TKE Elevators to replace two 55-year-old cars. Delivery is expected about February.

Utilities

The News Review was told that Tarantino is attempting to charge for utilities separately and in addition to the current

rent. Information received from a renter indicates that Tarantino divides utility costs among tenants, despite their having been originally included in existing renters' leases. Utilities are not individually metered.

Lack of Information

The News Review attempted to verify the resident's statement. Two calls leaving phone messages and two online inquiry forms to the local office have gone unanswered and a similar set of inquiries to Tarantino's corporate offices have also been ignored. In all cases, the requester's affiliation with this newspaper was clearly noted.

The elevator information was obtained from an initial call to the rental office that was answered, although questions on utilities were deflected.

Great Place to Live?

One resident noted that she really hoped all would be resolved because it was a "such a great place to live." Despite the stress, she said she would see the situation through because she likes the location and because it was relatively affordable, which she saw as a key concern for her fellow residents also living on fixed incomes.

If You Lived Here

Meanwhile, online corporate advertising offers apartments for rent from \$1,525 for a studio to \$2,250 for "a large two-bedroom." It makes no mention of utilities. The ad offers two months free rent as an incentive and the advertising states, "Welcome to Charlestowne North Apartments, a classic high-rise community with amenities galore [sic]." There is no mention of ongoing concerns.

(The name of the resident was withheld on request. Thanks to Carlton Green, Esq., and Stacey Crabtree for assistance researching the court cases.)



City Notes

Community Safety coordinated Automated External Defibrillator (AED) installations at the Greenbelt Cinema, New Deal Café and Greenbelt Arts Center. Information Technology installed Armory security cameras and the Animal Shelter is vacated for cleaning and repairs.

Economic Development attended holiday networking events, helped several businesses with relocations and/or county permitting and received grant approval for 12 healthcare firms.

Human Resources interviewed therapeutic recreation and constituent services candidates. Finance cooperated with an audit of federal funds received by the city. Both attended Police collective bargaining negotiations.

Recreation renewed the county food service permit for Springhill Lake Recreation Center's after-school program.

ARTS, Dance and Park Rangers presented three performances of The Snow Queen.

Therapeutic Recreation supported Parents Night Out and CARES produce distribution.

Park Rangers supported Animal Control's holiday event at Schrom Hills, and the Museum facilitated a Reparations Commission meeting.

During November, CARES counseled 149 people and tutored 41 students, GED aspirants and workforce development candidates. Sixteen learners, including city workers, attended English classes.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

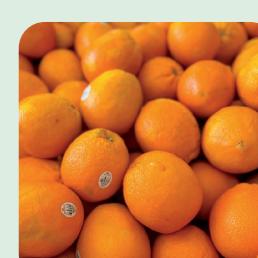
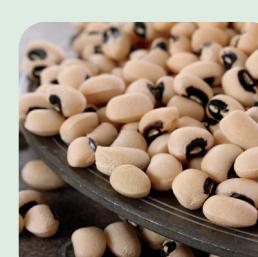
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Greenbelt Eats

Co-op Grocery Store Offers Greenbelt a New Spot to Dine

by Kyla Hanington



Raul Baptiste, Kyla Hanington and Ashley Mullane admire the baked goods in the Co-op.

the Co-op really be a new go-to lunch spot for me?

Amy showed me the bright tables and chairs that line the front window and talked about the different people she has seen enjoying them: a grandfather and grandchild; a person eating soup while reading a book; and herself, also eating soup. She took me to the soup bar and we each got ourselves a bowl (approximately \$3.50 for a small container, an excellently priced lunch, as Amy pointed out). After we paid we sat at the yellow table and watched the world go by.

Later, Raul Baptiste gave me a tour of all of the Co-op's culinary delights, from the new coffee bar that features, among other things, caramel lattes and peppermint mochas, to the hot soup bar, to sandwiches, to Raul's top choice. "Hands down, my favorite thing

See CO-OP, page 12

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred December 16-22, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltdmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported a sexual assault, two mental health diversions, and two domestic incidents, one with arrest.

Armed Person

On December 17 at 7:40 p.m. near 6216 Breezewood Drive, a man said another man was standing at his front door with a gun in his pocket. Officers searched but did not find him.

Cutting

On December 22 at 3:19 a.m. near 6017 Springhill Drive, during a heated argument, one person cut the other in the back with a beer bottle.

Disorderly

On December 16 at 3:01 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Capitol Drive, the driver of a disabled vehicle became disorderly after being told her vehicle would be impounded; she was arrested and taken to the station.

On December 16 at 6:29 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two disorderly individuals at the mall refused to leave. One grabbed an officer while being escorted away, and she was arrested.

DUI Arrest

On December 16 at 7:51 p.m. near 8017 Mandan Road, officers responded to the scene of an accident. The driver showed multiple signs of impairment and was arrested for suspected DUI.

Suspicious Person/ Warrant Arrest

On December 17 at 6:52 a.m. near 5506 Cherrywood Lane, a man found sleeping in a company truck had two open warrants. He was arrested and taken to the Department of Corrections.

Fraud

On December 21 near 9004 Breezewood Terrace, someone gained access to a banking account and was stealing money.

Theft

On December 17 at 8:53 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone broke into a vending machine and stole cash and coins.

On December 22 at 9:32 a.m. near 7802 Hanover Parkway, an electric bike locked with a chain was stolen from the bike rack.

Packages were stolen Decem-

ber 16 near 7700 Hanover Parkway, and December 18 near 7515 Mandan Road.

Shoplifting

On December 16 at 4:12 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, officers captured and arrested a shoplifter pushing a cart of stolen merchandise in the parking lot.

On December 17 at 1:35 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, someone was caught after stealing a soda bottle; the person was banned.

On December 20 at 11:45 p.m. near 7455 Greenbelt Road, a man filled a trash bag with clothing and other merchandise and fled in a car.

On December 21 at 8:25 p.m. near 7455 Greenbelt Road, a thief stole items and was captured; at 4:55 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was arrested and taken to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections for stealing from multiple store locations.

Trespassing

On December 16 at 9:33 a.m. near 7601 Hanover Parkway, a girl was caught trespassing in the high school, identified, and removed from school property.

Vandalism

On December 18 at 11:39 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, Beltway Plaza Security reported a group of juveniles spray-painting a wall. An officer stopped a group of juveniles who matched their description, and the spray paint was recovered. A girl was identified using surveillance footage, arrested, taken to the station, and released into her mother's custody.

On December 19 near 6204 Springhill Drive, an unoccupied apartment's window was broken.

On December 21 at 9:10 p.m. near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive, a hotel guest caused a disturbance and, in frustration, pushed over a decorative ceramic pot and a Christmas tree before leaving the property.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

On December 16 at 7:00 p.m. near 6204 Springhill Drive, a woman heard her car alarm go

off and saw two men drive off in her Acura ILX (Md. 9FB2907); near 6200 Springhill Drive a family member took a vehicle without permission.

Three Hyundais were stolen: December 17 near 7726 Hanover Parkway, a 2013 Elantra (Md. 56911HT); December 18 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a black 2018 Sonata (Md. 9FD6150); and December 22 near 7262 South Ora Court, an Elantra (Md. 4FF1283).

Recovered Stolen Vehicle

On December 19 near 6103 Breezewood Court, a stolen vehicle was recovered in D.C.

Attempted Theft of Vehicles

On December 17 near 9110 Springhill Lane, a 2017 Honda Accord had window and ignition damage; at 10:52 p.m. near 5909 Cherrywood Lane, a man left his car unlocked, and the steering column and ignition were damaged upon his return.

Theft from Auto

On December 19 near 6460 Capitol Drive, someone broke a vehicle window and stole a wallet.

Vandalism to Auto

Vehicle windows were broken: on December 16 on a Honda Civic near 5344 South Center Drive; on December 17 on a Dodge pickup truck near 8119 Burkart Court and on a Hyundai near 6103 Breezewood Court; on December 18 near 9008 Breezewood Terrace (a sunroof) and near 7811 Somerset Court; on December 19 near 5819 Cherrywood Lane; on December 20 near Cherrywood Lane, near Cherrywood Court and near 167 Westway; and on December 22 near 7810 Walker Drive.

On December 18 near 105 Centerway, two front tires were slashed.

GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE

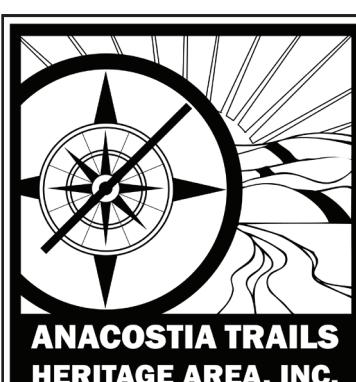
Police Arrest Two Juveniles For Beltway Plaza Shooting

On December 23, Greenbelt Police Department announced that detectives have identified and arrested two juvenile suspects connected to a shooting that occurred at Beltway Plaza on November 23. These same individuals were also involved in an armed robbery that took place just prior to the shooting. The U.S. Marshals Fugitive Taskforce executed the

arrest warrants in coordination with Greenbelt's Criminal Investigative Unit.

The shooting took place at approximately 4 p.m. on November 23, in the rear parking lot of Beltway Plaza. The victim was transported to an area hospital. Three male suspects were seen fleeing on foot toward Berwyn Heights.

Happy Holidays



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Carjacking Suspects Sought

On Tuesday, December 17 at 6:05 p.m. officers responded to 5815 Cherrywood Lane for an armed carjacking. Police reported a woman's Silver Nissan Rogue was stolen by four females at knife point. The suspects appeared to be teenagers. Two exited a vehicle and approached the woman, armed with a pocket knife, to steal her car. The other two remained in the car they approached in but followed the stolen vehicle as it fled the scene.

Later that evening, parking enforcement found the vehicle that had been carjacked near the same address on Cherrywood Lane.

On December 19, Greenbelt Police Department released



Suspects in the armed carjacking on December 17

images of the two suspects who approached the woman and left in the stolen vehicle. Anyone with information is asked to call 301-474-7200.



Letters cont'd from p.2

and atmosphere over the past few months. The store has lost its charm, long-term employees are not happy and are grumbling and drudging through the work day. Employees used to be happier, chatting among themselves and with customers. I am not saying the cashiers aren't friendly and respectful, just more generic which is not what a community store should be like.

While I understand the store is there to serve customers efficiently, it also serves as a communication hub for the community. As a shopper, I have not seen any issue with cashiers yakking away and ignoring customers. The Co-op

is "Greenbelt's only community owned and operated Supermarket & Pharmacy," according to the store's website (greenbelt.coop), and as such, serves and works for the community.

I have experience as a customer and a retail worker, and I have worked in management, so I understand the challenges of meeting the needs of customers, demands and deadlines of the store, but not at the cost of the people that help meet those challenges. My message to the Co-op board, the management and customers, "Treat others as you would like to be treated," unless you want to lose the support of the community and go out of business.

Kathryn Beard

Art Reception



Artist Dave Campbell and his wife joined with Mayor Emmett Jordan and others at the art reception at the Greenbelt Arts Center on December 13.

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BOXED: \$10.90/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$16.35). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

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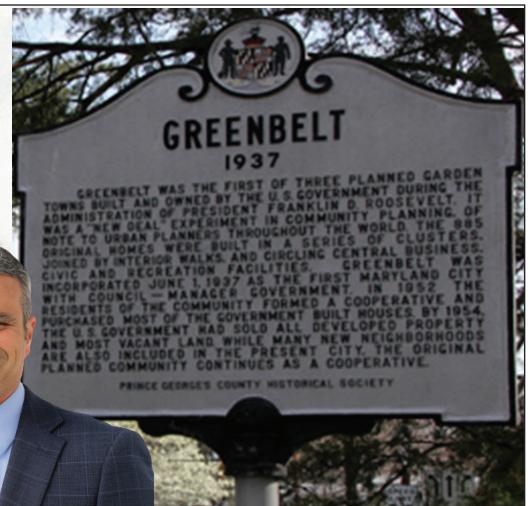
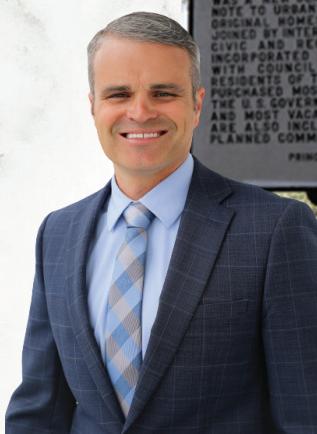
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2025

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On a frigid Friday afternoon, the Ukulele Ladies warmed up the New Deal Café by leading a rollicking standing-room-only crowd in Christmas and Hanukkah songs.

Obituaries, from p.4

returning to preschool education. She retired from teaching in 2010 after decades of service to her students and their families.

A gifted musician, Belinda shared her talents as a skilled pianist and soprano. She served as church pianist for several congregations across Arkansas and most recently at First Christian Church of Sherwood from 2011 to 2021. Her love for music included singing in choirs alongside her husband during their years of ministry together.

Belinda is survived by her devoted husband of 51 years, John Birdsong of Greenbelt; her children, Hillary Birdsong (Christin Beavers) of Baltimore and Joseph Birdsong (Justin McAdam) of Washington, D.C.; her mother, Ella Bell of Heber Springs, Ark.; and two brothers, Eric Bell and Anthony Bell, also of Heber Springs. She also leaves behind beloved sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews, cousins and a host of friends in every place she lived and worked.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ermald Bell, and two brothers, Edward Bell and Michael Bell, and by her grandparents whom she loved dearly.

A memorial service will be held on January 11, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at First Christian Church of Sherwood, Ark. Her ashes will be interred at Pearson Cemetery near her childhood home in Heber Springs.

Belinda's memory will live on through the lives she touched as a teacher and musician, and especially through the lives of her children, who were her pride and joy, whose creativity, independence and love for life made her proud and happy every day. And through her husband John, who learned so much from her about living beautifully and joyously.



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3 Bedroom Townhome Large, fenced backyard that opens onto protected woodland. Upgraded to top to bottom, updated kitchen & more.

SOLD



Single Level Living One bedroom GHI home. 9' ceilings, corner lot. New a/c and central heat, washer/dryer. Freshly painted throughout - No stairs!

SOLD



Large Addition With Full Bathroom Fenced lot adjacent to woodlands. Extra living space on the main level with shower bath. Coming soon!



Upper Level 1 Bedroom GHI Home. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Remodeled kitchen. Full-sized washer/dryer in separate laundry room.

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Celebrating the Season with Joy in Greenbelt



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

Susan Breon, left, and Wei-der Huang perform a piano four-hand duet during the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, Christmas Concert on December 15. With more than 70 people attending the concert and bake sale, the church raised close to \$1,000 for the local food bank Help By Phone and Meals on Wheels of College Park. Other highlights of the evening included soprano Mia Yu singing Rejoice Greatly from Handel's Messiah and the church's rock band, the Relics, performing Run Run Rudolph.



PHOTO BY ELLEN BASTIO

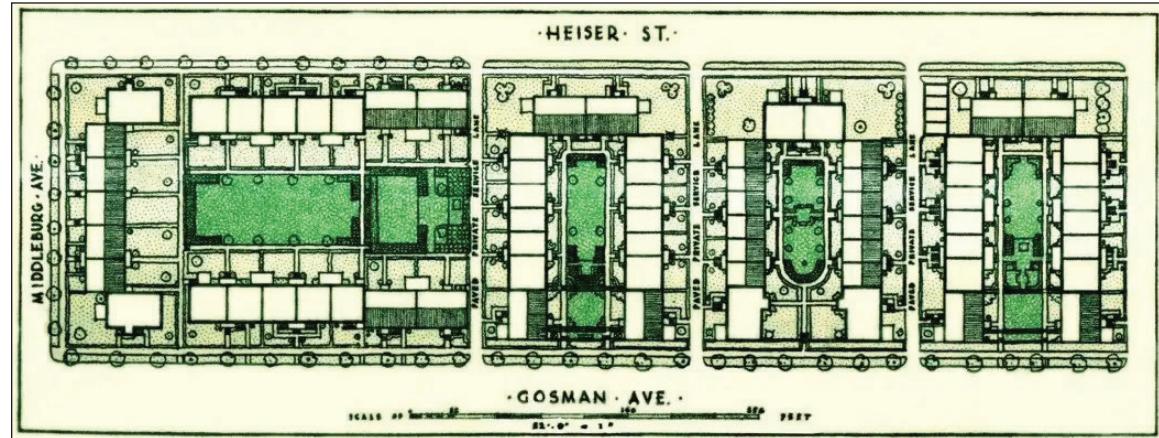
On December 22 a group of Greenbelt runners took a festive five-mile route around the city, adorned with lights, jingling bells and singing carols as best their breathing and knowledge of lyrics allowed. Pictured from left: front row, Ellen Bastio, Aaliyah El-Amin, Margie Kuhn, Amber Hennessy; back row, Mary Wade (partially obscured by antlers), Anna Bedford-Dillow, Lloyd Rawley and Bernard Kelly.



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

A crowd gathers in Roosevelt Center for Krampusnacht on December 14.

SUNNYSIDE continued from page 7



DRAWING COURTESY SUNNYSIDE GARDENS/US HISTORY

Shared gardens of Jefferson Court have street side and garden side entrances.

development was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and a city historic district in 2007.

The Pams moved to Sunnyside Gardens in 1970 to a ground floor rental unit on 14th (Locust) Street with the landlord living upstairs. The back side of this unit faced a common interior space.

After a couple of years, the Pams bought a two-story townhome on the other side of Locust Street, one of the so-called mews homes. As such, it was in one of 10 rows of houses that run across the width of the long block. Each row has a garden side and a service side. On the garden side, each unit has a small private garden and faces another row of homes, each one having a similar garden area. The two rows of gardens are separated by a common central sidewalk providing pedestrian access to each unit from the street. On the service side, a common driveway runs between the row of houses on either side and each unit has space for parking a car.

The Pams' unit was two stories with a living room and kitchen/dining on the first floor and two bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, plus a small room which they also used as a bedroom.

The Pams had a three-block walk to the Bliss Street station for the #7 subway and



PHOTO BY RONALD BRADFORD

Sunnyside Gardens houses with original features

a 15-minute ride to Broadway with additional access to other subways and the Long Island Railroad. For 12 of the 16 years they lived at Sunnyside Gardens, they did not own an automobile.

The Pams became active in community organizations with Bob serving for a time as president of the Sunnyside Gardens Community Association. It owns and operates Sunnyside Park for which membership fees are required of residents to use its facilities. The association was also involved in many other community activities and became a pioneer in sponsoring street fairs such as art fairs and a major health fair. Dorothy participated in a food buying co-op which would make

weekly group purchases of food, obtaining wholesale prices.

Noting that almost all residents there were Democrats, Dorothy also was active in an anti-war Democratic organization that also supported the proposed women's equal rights amendment which many women opposed at the time. She was elected six times as Democratic District Leader and State Committee-woman and as a delegate to the Democratic Convention in 1984.

Today, the Pams are in awe that some of the original homes at Sunnyside Gardens are selling for over a million dollars — the close proximity to Manhattan and uniqueness of housing have driven up the home values.

is to get a chicken breast. I love the seasoning; it's pure protein; it helps me not eat carbs; and it's a steal at \$3.99. I'd pay \$10 for that thing!"

Baptiste had more to say about the seasoned chicken. It is used in some of the "amazing sandwiches that are made in-house." These sandwiches include chicken pesto, Asian BBQ banh mi, curried chicken wrap and turkey and brie. Likewise, all chicken salads, egg salad, spinach dip and tuna salad are made in-house. He introduced me to deli manager Ashley Mullane, who showed me the variety of baked goods that are proofed, filled, baked and iced fresh at the Co-op. "I am in here all the time," Baptiste told me, "and even I didn't realize how much of (the food) is made in-house."

"I like to bring my daughter," John Appiah-Duffell said. "We will get two hot chocolates and sit here (at the front tables) and both read until she is done." They can be there for some time as she "likes to savor her hot chocolate." He also gets smoothies from the smoothie bar, and like many others that I spoke to, loves the curried chicken salad.

The tables were placed at the beginning of November, and if the area continues to get use, Co-op Manager Dan Gillotte said, they will likely look at adding more tables to the front. There are other areas that could potentially be used for tables should the interest be there, and they hope to add some outdoor seating in the spring. "We love offering simple but pleasant spots for (people) to enjoy our offerings and community at the Co-op!" Gillotte said.

When my daughter found

out I was writing this story, she asked me if I had gotten a job from Gillotte for a single day. Like a job. For a day. "Like one of those really bad documentaries on the Science Channel," she offered. Unfortunately, I didn't think of that, and so instead made multiple trips to try multiple things. One time, Hansen encouraged me to try the pecan chicken salad, which I eyed warily. "Are those grapes?" I said, a little aghast.

"Yes!" she answered, like grapes in chicken salad are a selling feature, and I guess they are because I bought a small container. "I am going to try this like the big brave girl that I am," I told her, once I finished my soup (loaded potato, very good). I am not going to lie, I did feel like quite the brave little soldier as I forked out some chicken salad — avec grape — and tried it, highly concerned about all those mixed textures. And, my review? It was quite good! It tasted like being in my grandmother's house in Victoria, British Columbia, in 1982, and that was a lovely, loving place to be. If having a grape in chicken salad can bring you back to your grandmother's house 40 years previously, may we all be so lucky to have some chicken salad over lunch with a friend at a bright yellow table.

"I find it cheerful right here," Hansen said.

And it is.

CO-OP continued from page 8



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

Soup is very exciting!